GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:704
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2002
NATIONAL SECURITY GUARDS
Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to procure modern and sophisticated weapons and equipment for the National Security Guard (NSG) to combat terrorism and to counter incidents of hijacking;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the demand of sky marshals has been increasing in domestic flights;

(d) if so, whether the contraints of limited strength of NSG is a restraining factor in meeting the demand; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to meet the demand ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a) & (b): Modernisation of Central Para military forces including NSG is a continuous exercise. During the last few years, the Govt. has given special attention to upgrading the striking capability of CPMFs by induction of modern and sophisticated weaponry and equipment. With a view to increase the striking power of NSG a number of sophisticated weapons and equipment have been authorised to NSG.

(c): Yes, Sir. After the hijacking of IC-814 on 24.12.1999, the Govt. had approved deployment of Sky Marshals in Indian Airlines and Alliance Air Flights since January, 2000. Later the scheme has been extended to cover Jet Airways and Air Sahara flights also from Oct, 2001.

(d) & (e): The NSG is capable of meeting the present demand for Sky Marshal from within its strength.